Salt washed away by the Cyclone.

70. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the salt belonging to Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar washed away by the recent cyclone was on the ridges for nine months instead of being removed to the platform ;

(*b*) whether the salt was allowed to remain there in spite of the licensee's frequent applications to the Government for the removal thereof, and

(*c*) whether the Excise Commissioner condemned that salt as unfit for human consumption ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) It is reported that no salt was lying on the ridges.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) this question does not arise.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative

Sale Price of Mr. Karayalar's Salt.

71. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any arrangement which prevents wholesale purchasers who may come to any special understanding with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar from selling salt at higher rates than those stipulated in the agreement with Mr. Karayalar ; and

(*b*) whether similar arrangements have or have not proved to be disastrous both to the Government and the consumers in the case of monopoly sales, in respect of Bombay and Tuticorin salt at Quilon and Trivandrum ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) No such arrangement is necessary, for it would be futile for Mr. Karayalar to come to any special understanding with any wholesale purchasers to put up prices, since Mr. Karayalar is bound to sell salt in any quantity at the stipulated rate to any person who is prepared to pay for it and cannot confine his sales to any particular set of wholesale purchasers. He cannot put up prices without combining with the whole body of purchasers, which is impracticable, seeing that there is no limit to them.

(*b*) Government are not aware of any similar arrangements having been made in former years at Quilon and Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Was not Mr. Motha given the contract for importing and selling salt in Quilon and Trivandrum a few years ago ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Why was that system stopped ?

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That refers to a different contract altogether in respect of which I have not got the information ready here.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not the import and sale system tried at Alleppey in 1085 and 1086, the contract being given to three contractors and did not the system fail?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That contract refers to an old period; and the records must be looked into before any reply could be given.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not the supply and sale system prevailing in Munambam? Why was it stopped?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have not got the information ready in regard to that arrangement.

Contract with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar for Salt.

72. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to question No. 231 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th April, 1923, regarding the supply and sale of local salt at Alleppey, will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the circumstances under which the contractor could not perform his part of the contract for 1095;

(*b*) why the contract was not put up to public auction;

(*c*) the average quantity of salt arranged to be transported and sold a year;

(*d*) whether there was any necessity for giving Mr. Karayalar such a monopoly;

(*e*) whether Government will not incur a loss by this arrangement, and if so, what the annual loss will be on this account;

(*f*) whether the *mel-labham* which now accrues to the Government as gain will not be lost by this arrangement;

(*g*) the quantity of salt belonging to Mr. Karayalar lost during the recent floods;

(*h*) whether any consideration of this loss weighed with the Government in expediting the carrying out of Mr. Karayalar's undertaking to transport and sell home-made salt; and

(*i*) whether Mr. Karayalar had been often complaining that his salt was not made use of for sale?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The contractor did not refuse to perform his part of the contract in 1095.

(*b*) There was more than one application for the contract and they were all considered before Mr. Karayalar's application was accepted.

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